

4.7 From Republic to Empire



The Birth of the Roman Empire

- After Caesar's assassination= civil war ensued
- Second Triumvirate: Octavian, Marc Antony and Lepidus in 43 BCE and divided the Republic between them (sealed with a marriage between Octavian's sister and Marc Antony)
- Lepidus was pushed from power
- Marc Antony met and married Cleopatra in 36 BCE, but Octavian defeated Antony's armies and Anthony and Cleopatra committed suicide
- Octavian was left as master of Roman world



From Octavian to Augustus

- Octavian claimed he would return control of republic to the **Senate** (really gave Senate power over provinces with weak military, while he kept provinces with large armies for himself)
- He was given semi-divine name of **Augustus** and portrayed he was a descendant of Venus
- Expanded his power by becoming Tribune to the People to bridge the gap between the rich and poor
- Only took the title of **Princeps** (first among the equals or First Citizen) but was in fact Rome's **first emperor**
- Emperors were the commander in chief of the army and head of the priesthood
- Senate continued to exist to suggest and approve the Emperor's decisions



Rome under Augustus

- Period of Augustan peace called **Principate**
- Flourishing of "**Romanity**" (arts, religion, civil service, literature, state sponsored architecture, mosaics and sculptures ie. 82 temples)
- Had an imperial force of 9000 men known as **Praetorian Guard** to protect Rome
- A great statesman and his system of bureaucracy lasted for 200 years
- Massive building program that turned Rome from a 'city of brick to a city of marble' (2 circuses, 2 amphitheatres, 4 gladiatorial schools, 11 imperial baths, 926 private baths, 2000 fountains, 700 public pools and 37 monumental gates)
- Estimated Rome **population** grew from 180 000 inhabitants in the Republic (c. 270 BCE) -375 000 (130 BCE) to 1 million people under Augustus
- At its peak, there could have been as many as 54 million people within the Roman empire (based on Roman **census** taken every 5 years as a basis for taxation)



Architecture

- Roman sculptures developed own styles with triumphal arches, columns and symbols and figures that celebrated the victories of conquering emperors



Arch of Titus

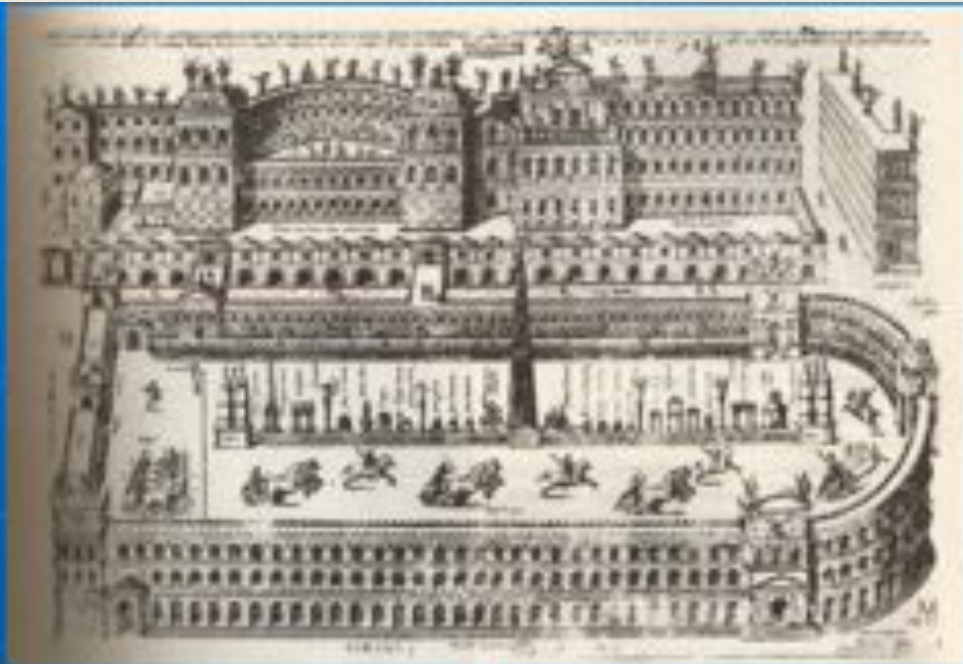
- Hadrian's Wall
- Roman Aqueducts
- Pantheon
- Thermal Baths
- Colosseum (Flavian Amphitheatre) built in 80 CE by Emperor Titus
- Circus, theatres

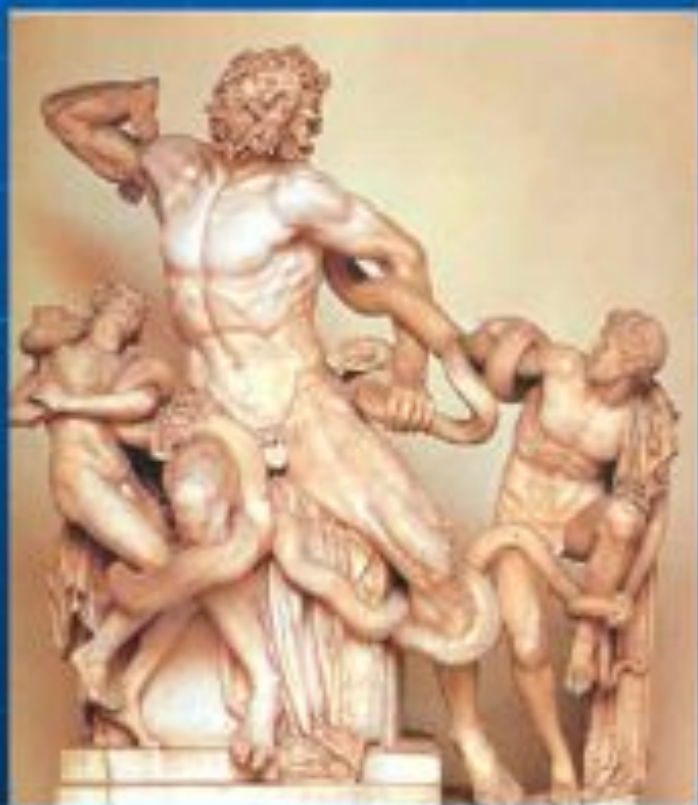




Arch of Constantine









Arts and Architecture in the Age of Augustus

- * Augustus knew the arts were a tool for propaganda
- * Augustus built



Arts and Architecture in the Age of Augustus

- * Dedicated to Augustus' wife Livia



Buildings and Public Works in the Empire

- Heated bath complexes called a Thermae were perhaps the greatest of all Roman contributions to the art of living
- Form of relaxation enjoyed by rich and poor, men and women alike



Buildings and Public Works in the Empire



- Systems of Aqueducts were built to transport water in every part of the Roman empire
- A source of water had to be found on a hillside, where water flows constant and the slope was steep enough that water could flow to its destination only needing gravity



Buildings and Public Works in the Empire

- Permanent Theatres were a late Roman development
- They were built semi-circular with a dance floor, a stage, and a backdrop



Buildings and Public Works in the Empire

- Most famous amphitheater is the Coliseum. (Flavian Amphitheater)
- 80 entrances, 76 public
- 4 seating areas
- 50, 000 spectators
- Convicted criminals executed as part of public entertainment

